

From: cattmail@mac.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 10:20pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department Of Justice,

I am part of a worldwide network that is working on getting the BeOS or equivalent back into the market place, but there is no hope of success if the following issues aren't addressed:

1. MS Office needs to be opened, so that developers interested in porting it or understanding the document formats can do so either in form of a source code licence or an allowance to see it, check it and "clone libraries", so that applications on non-Windows OSs can read and write MS Office formats for flawless interaction with Windows users.
2. The Win32 API needs to be made available (incl. undocumented APIs) so that WINE can be successfully ported not only to BeOS but other OS too.
3. The file system needs to be opened, so that BeOS users can continue to access files on non-BFS partitions.
4. The ruling must include a "must-carry" rule, so that any OEM Microsoft is supplying Windows with HAS to "dual-boot" an alternative operating system, in this case BeOS, in order to remedy the damage MS has done to BeOS in the past.

The above facts and opinions have been drawn up by a non-profit group who's goal is to shed some light on things that have become apparent in the consumer market concerning the way Microsoft has acted with its monopoly power. The consumer and its freedom of choice has been heavily damaged by such misconduct from Microsoft. As you and I know, the consumer reality has been tarnished into thinking that Microsoft and its products are the only choice or alternative to solutions that not too many years ago had flourished with products and solutions from a wide range and it is understandable that some products and/or solutions would and will disappear.

You and I usually assume (by natural occurrence) now that there are no alternatives for products and/or solutions in the computing world when it comes to the PC market other than Microsoft and Windows... yeah sure there are alternatives, but most of the consumer market is blind to these alternatives due to Microsoft's strangle hold on the OEMs with its strict licensing issues. Is Microsoft totally at fault over this?... NO! I think that the OEMs should be also held accountable for irresponsibility to the consumer market by forcing a product and/or solution in giving the consumers no freedom of choice and blinding them

from the alternatives and staging such a market as if Microsoft and Windows is the only choice by default.

I do not wish for Microsoft to be split as a company, in my opinion that would only hurt the consumer market even more and hide the fact that Microsoft is still Microsoft. I also believe the latest settlement offer is only going to make Microsoft's monopoly more powerful with forcing Microsoft to donate Billions of dollars worth of products and/or solutions (which would cost only pennies for Microsoft) to the educational sector in need of such is only going to worsen the blow to the rest of the competitors affected by Microsoft's anti-competitive practices already. I am in no way undermining your decision or proposal of settlement, but I think that Microsoft would have another advantage over the rest of the industry in the education market by planting Microsoft's reach in the way of the back door so to speak. The schools in need should be given donations of a cash amount and let the schools decide on what is needed for their children, not Microsoft!

I as a consumer feel that Microsoft has heavily damaged the freedom of the consumer in a way that has almost damaged the economy of the US and the economies around the world. I have much faith in you, the Department Of Justice and I feel that you will resolve and bring to justice that is rightly deserved to the consumer world and hopefully protect us (as you always have) from such dangers to our way of life and our freedom of choice as our ancestors fought so hard to establish in America. I believe you will do the right thing. I thank you very much for your time and patience in reading this letter and good luck to you.

Best Regards...

Dennis